

hung on to the female, ignoring the snake whose head was now under its belly! The snake continued to swallow, the male uttering an occasional feeble note. When the snake reached the female's armpits, the male lost interest, calmly stepped off her back and slowly hopped away. I then picked him up and he protested vociferously. An attempt to catch the snake made him disgorge the toad whose hind legs lay stretched out behind her. I did not examine her very closely, but I believe she was dead. Two more *piscator* were seen in a morning's walk, a large one swimming across the stream, apparently carrying a toad (or frog), and a small 10" youngster which hopped off the ground several times, in a vigorous attempt to escape. The monsoon had just broken.

This was in north Salsette, along the Dahisar Nadi.

BOMBAY,

HUMAYUN ABDULALI.

June 11, 1941.

XIII.—SUPPOSED CANNIBALISM AMONG SPIDERS IN HIGH ALTITUDES.

In the 'Comity of Spiders' p. 118, Bristowe quotes Hingston as saying that the spiders found on Mt. Everest at 22,000 feet are the highest existing animals on earth . . . and for food they eat one another. Bristowe doubts this cannibalistic regime, and suggests that thorough search would reveal springtails and other small insects under stones. This receives confirmation from Eric Shipton who told me last year (August 1940) that in July 1935 he found fish insects under rocks collected to build a cairn at the summit of a peak of the Mt. Everest group, height 22,580 feet. (Lat. N. 28° 04' Long. E. 86° 54'). These and probably other forms of *Aptera* evidently provide food for the spiders on Mt. Everest.

The same solution of the food problem for spiders is to be found in caves. *Collembola*, and rarely *Campodea*, are to be found in Indian lime stone caves. Cave spiders are present remote from the entrances in caves on Moila Tibba near Chakrata. The large adults make webs and apparently depend for food on hatches of fungus gnats, and the chance arrival of insects for hibernation. They live in a very sluggish and semi-comatose state. The immature spiders are however very active, and are to be found running about the cave floor in those situations where *Collembola* (and millepedes) occur.

GEODETIC BRANCH OFFICE,

SURVEY OF INDIA,

DEHRA DUN, U. P.

March 19, 1941.

E. A. GLENNIE,

Colonel,

Regional Recorder (India & Burma),

British Speleological Association.